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Peacebuilding Commission

Third session
Organizational Committee

Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 23 June 2008, at 5 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Takasu ..... (Japan)

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08-39902 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 5.05 p.m.

Opening of the third session of the Peacebuilding Commission

1. **The Chairperson** declared open the third session of the Peacebuilding Commission and welcomed the representatives of Canada and Sweden to the Organizational Committee. The two new members represented major financial contributors to the collective work of the Commission.

Adoption of the agenda (PBC/3/OC/1)

2. *The agenda was adopted.*

Election of the Chairperson and other officers

3. **The Chairperson** said that, after intensive consultations within the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on which States Members would represent those bodies on the Organizational Committee, it had been decided that the Committee would elect its Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons ad interim, as well as Chairpersons ad interim of the country-specific configurations and of the Working Group on Lessons Learned. Once the membership of the Committee for the third session had been finalized, permanent officers would be elected.

4. *Mr. Takasu (Japan) was elected Chairperson ad interim of the third session by acclamation.*

5. *Mr. Takasu (Japan) took the Chair.*

6. *Ms. Gallardo Hernández (El Salvador) and Mr. Christian* (Ghana) *were elected Vice-Chairpersons ad interim of the third session by acclamation.*

7. *Mr. Grauls (Belgium) was elected Chairperson ad interim of the country-specific configuration on the Central African Republic; Ms. Viotti (Brazil) was elected Chairperson ad interim of the country-specific configuration on Guinea-Bissau; and Mr. Majoor (Netherlands) was elected Chairperson ad interim of the country-specific configuration on Sierra Leone.*

8. **The Chairperson** said that he would undertake consultations on the appointment of a successor to the Permanent Representative of Norway, the outgoing Chairperson of the country-specific configuration on Burundi, and report shortly thereon to members.

Other matters

9. **Mr. Lidén** (Sweden) said that the creation of the Commission was one of the major achievements of the reform process launched at the 2005 World Summit. As one of its earliest supporters, Sweden was pleased that The Commission had become a prominent forum that concretely linked security, development, the rule of law and human rights.

10. The Commission should continue its efforts to close the gaps in the Organization's handling of post-conflict situations. Sweden's experience as a member of the Security Council had made it highly aware of how easily a country could relapse into conflict. To prevent that from happening, the Commission should maintain a close dialogue with countries emerging from conflict, mobilize the resources it needed to fulfil its mandate and clearly define its priorities and strategies.

11. In order to be truly effective, the Commission needed to achieve the same degree of coherence in its activities that was expected in the Organization's development work. The true indicator of the Commission's success would be the impact of its activities on the countries that had sought its assistance. In that connection, the Swedish Government was examining ways of strengthening its relations with and assistance to countries in post-conflict situations within its general framework for development cooperation.

12. **Ms. Hulan** (Canada) said that, although it was a relatively new body, the Commission had already demonstrated its value to the United Nations system through its work in Burundi and Sierra Leone, where it had succeeded in developing a new model for establishing priorities that was based on an unprecedented degree of inclusiveness and dialogue among relevant actors. Such an approach had enabled the Commission to bring together political, social and development considerations into a common framework in a way that had never been done before.

13. Although its members were already preparing for the first mandated review of the Commission in 2010, those preparations should not preclude the discussion of any relevant issues, including the Commission's future agenda, its working methods and ways of streamlining the work of the country-specific configurations.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.